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PRESTON PORT HEALTH DISTRICT

MEDICAL OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT.

1934.

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Port Health Administration.

PORT HEALTH DISTRICT.

The Port Health District of Preston extends from Ferry Point on the south to a point about 2,350 yards south of the Victoria Pier, South Shore, Blackpool, on the north. The dock, which is 3,000 feet long by 600 feet wide, covers 40 acres and is approached by the entrance basin, 890 feet long by 300 feet wide, an area of 4½ acres.

The communicating locks are 450 feet long and 66 feet wide, with a depth of 29 feet 6 inches at high water ordinary spring tide. The dock is situated in the borough, and is about 16 miles up the River Ribble from deep water at the bar.

The quays are 1½ miles long. There are 170 acres of storage ground and 37,489 superficial yards of covered floor space.

The dock is equipped with hydraulic and steam cranes, and has ample railway facilities.

The cattle lairage accommodates 800 cattle and 1,600 sheep or pigs.

To sheet 2 .....

1. Staff.

Changes in Staff

Name of officer	Nature of Appointment	Date of Appointment	Qualifications	Any other appointment held.
A.F. Singleton.	Deputy to Port Sen. Inspector.	2.6.33. Resigned 31.7.33.	Cert R.S.I.	District Sen. Inspector.

II. Amount of shipping entering the district during the year.

During the year under review 2,174 ships of which 264 were foreign, entered the port. Details are shown on Table B. below.

Table B.

Ships from	Number	Tonnage	Number inspected		Number of ships reported as having or having had during the voyage infectious disease on board.
			By the Medical Officer of Health.	By the Sanitary Inspector	
Foreign ports	264	215,235	34	264	nil
Coastwise	1,913	1,191,977	2	666	nil
Total	2,174	1,307,212	36	927	nil

To Sheet 3 .....

III. Character of Shipping and Trade during the year.

A steady increase in the amount of passenger traffic is occurring coincidentally with the post war development of the Preston - Larne - Belfast vehicle ferry service and the growth of the banana trade with the West Indies.

Eight weekly ferry sailings in each direction are regularly maintained by one firm. Accommodation is provided for crews of vehicles being transhipped. Cabin accommodation is also available and in the summer months a certain amount of holiday traffic is carried.

A steady build up in the banana trade with the West Indies has taken place in the past two years. Three modern ships call at approximately ten day intervals and with the addition of a fourth ship weekly sailings will take place in the current year.

Good cabin accommodation is provided on these ships and about 4/8 passengers are on board on each inward trip.

The West Indies trade has brought as a concomitant an increased import trade in stevedore. A total of 11 arrived during the year from various countries. Of these 6 were British and 5 were Alien.

To Sheet 4 .....

Table 4a.

		Alien	Other
Passenger Traffic.	Number of passengers inwards including steerage	23	1,310 *
	Number of passengers outwards		1,103 *

* Included in these figures are 1,193 inwards and 1,126 outwards, Lorne-Preston Ferry Service.

Principal Imports	Cement, cattle, coal, cork, iron, steel, motor spirit, potatoes, potash, phosphates, pit props, timber, stone chippings, wood pulp, esparto grass, grain, oil seeds, china clay, vehicles, and general cargoes, bananas, onions, citrus fruits.
Principal Exports	Coal, coke, pitch, tar, machinery, vehicles, petrol, bitumen, oils, scrap iron and bricks.
Principal Ports from which ships arrive.	Aruba, Arendal, Antwerp, Bremen, Bergen, Bordeaux, Cuxhaven, Copenhagen, Dronten, Friedrichstadt, Fortunal, Fredrikshavn, Gothenburg, Gefle, Odynie, Helsinki, Hamburg, Helsingborg, Helsingfors, Kiel, Karlskrona, Kotka, Karlshamn, Kalmar, Leningrad, La Pallice, Larvik, Littlestown, Lulea, Lovisa, Marseilles, Norrkoping, Oslo, Oxen, Paris, Rouen, Rostock, Sundsvall, Sfax, Skelleftea, Stockholm, Trondheim, Valvik, Vasteryik, Warnemunde, and West Indian Ports (St. Georges, Vieux Port, Castries, Portsmouth, Roseau).

To Sheet 5 .....

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IV. Inland Barge Traffic.

There is no inland barge traffic from the Port of Preston.

V. Inter Unwell.

No change.

VI. Public Health (Ships) Regulations, 1925.

(1) List of Infected Areas.

The list of infected areas is kept up to date and circulated regularly to pilots and customs officers serving the port.

(2) Radio Messages.

(a) The port is not equipped for radio transmitting.
(b) The port is not equipped for radio reception.

(3) Notifications otherwise than by Radio.

The Corporation maintain a barge moored at Lytham which is in telephonic communication with the offices. Ships wishing to enter the port signal this barge of their intentions and of any untoward circumstances on board. These messages are passed on to the Harbour Master who in turn communicates with the Port Medical Officer.

(4) Mooring Stations.

The mooring station for "infected" or "suspected" ships is one of the mooring buoys in the centre of the Albert Edward Dock. There is no provision made for mooring outside the dock.

To Sheet 6 .....

(5) Arrangements for:

(a) Hospital Accommodation.

All cases of infectious disease apart from smallpox are removed to the Local Isolation Hospital, at Heywood, Preston.

(b) Surveillance.

Surveillance is carried out as suggested in section 15(2) and section 37 of the Public Health (Ships) Regulations, 1932.

(c) Cleansing and Disinfection.

Quarters are disinfected by fumigation by HCN gas by arrangement with outside commercial firm if necessary. Local fumigation by sulphur dioxide and HCN in suitable cases is carried out by the Port Sanitary Inspector.

Infected and infested bedding and clothing are removed by van to the Corporation Disinfecting Station, Argyll Road, Preston.

Cleansing of persons is also carried out at the disinfecting station.

VII. Smallpox.

(1) The Isolation Hospital arrangements for admission of smallpox cases is in the hands of the Regional Hospital Board who advise which hospital to send such cases. Normally Ainsworth Hospital, Bury is retained as the first regional hospital to admit cases of smallpox.

To Sheet 7 .....

(6) Smallpox cases could be removed by an ambulance belonging to the Preston Corporation.

The general state of the crews of these ambulances is the responsibility of the Medical Officer of Health of the County Borough of Preston.

(5) Smallpox consultants

Dr. C. Metcalfe Brown, Town Hall, Manchester.
Central 3377 and Blagg 6773.

Dr. Hall, Petrus, Port Health Authority, Liverpool.
Central 0631/2 and 0723 and Garston 1136.

Dr. A.B. Temple, Belmont Grove, Liverpool.
Anfield 2271 and Gateacre 2031.

(4) Facilities for the laboratory diagnosis of smallpox are available at the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine under the direction of Professor Dennis.

VIII. Personnel Changes.

No change in the arrangements.

25 Alien and 2 British seamen in the port suffering from venereal diseases received treatment at the Preston Royal Infirmary Clinic, the main incidence of these diseases being associated with the regular ship service between the West Indies and Preston.

To Sheet 8 ......

X. Cases of notifiable and other infectious diseases on ships.

Table X.

Nationality	Vessels	Number of cases during the year		Number of ships quarantined
		Occupation	Crew	
Cases landed from ships from foreign ports	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Cases which have occurred on ships from foreign ports but have been disposed of before arrival	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Cases landed from other ships	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

XI. Observations on the occurrence of rodents in ships.

No case of rodents has been reported.

XII. Measures taken against ships infected with or suspected for plague.

No plague infected or suspected ship entered Preston during the year.

To Sheet 7 ******

XII. Rodents destroyed in ships from foreign ports.

The district is neither an approved port nor a designated approved port.

(1) Inquiry is made of the captain of every ship from a foreign port as to rodent mortality in rodents on board ship and each ship is examined by the Port Sanitary Inspector and a rodent operator for evidence of rodent infestation.
(2) Bacteriological and pathological examination of rodents is carried out at the Laboratory in the Preston Royal Infirmary. During the year 2 rats from foreign vessels were submitted for this examination.
(3) Ships are fumigated from time to time by the following commercial firms

London Fumigation Co., Liverpool.
Hays and Co., Liverpool.
Rentokil (Pyrethrum Services) Ltd., Hinchford,

and by informal arrangement with the Liverpool Port Health Authority deratting certificates issued.

No rat proofing has been done during the year.
(4) All ships from foreign ports are required to place efficient rat guards on all mooring ropes to prevent the passage of rats between ships and shore. In the event of vessels not having the required equipment on board rat guards are issued at a charge of sixpence per guard daily and a charge of 5/- is made in the case of each loss.

To Sheet 10 .....

Sheet 10 .....

Table IX.

Vessels destroyed during the year in ships from foreign ports.

Voyages				Number
Black ports	...	...	...	11
Brown ports	...	...	...	3
Ignition not known	...	...	...	3
Sent for quarantine	...	...	...	0
Infested with plague	...	...	...	nil

Fumigation is not a designated approved port nor an approved port for the issue of derating and exemption certificates and therefore Table V does not apply.

Examination of Vessels by Local Authorities.
Examination of Vessels by Port Sanitary Inspector.

All classes of vessels as defined in section 2 of the Order were examined by the Port Sanitary Inspector and the resident superintendent. 30 local derating certificates were issued to masters of ships found to be free from rat infestation.

To Sheet 11 .....

To Sheet 11 .....

XIII. Inspection of Shops for Nuisances.

Table 6. Inspections and Notices.

Nature and Number of inspections		No.	Notices served		Results of serving notices
			Statutory Notices	Other Notices	
British 666	Defects in original construction	6	Nil	Verbal intimations 56	49 defects remedied
	Defects wear and tear	30			
	Dirt, vermin, prejudicial to health	30			
Other Nations 261	Defects in original construction	4	Nil	Verbal intimations 27	21 defects remedied
	Defects wear and tear	12			
	Dirt, vermin, prejudicial to health	11			
Total 927		85	Nil	85	70 defects remedied

XIV. Public Health (Shell-Fish) Regulations 1934 and 1948.

No change in the arrangements.

There were 3,766 bags of mussels treated at Lytham Beds

ex Bangor 60%
" Morecambe 40% approx.

The number of bags treated are 25% less than in 1953.

Dutch and Danish imports have badly affected the local trade.

To Sheet 12 .....

Sheet 12.....

XV. Medical Inspection of Aliens.

The Port of Preston is not approved for the landing of aliens and none of the medical staff holds a warrant of appointment as a Medical Inspector of Aliens.

Aliens, however, are entering the port in small but increasing numbers. A total of 23 arrived during the year, of whom 9 were passengers landing at the port, 9 were passengers or relatives of members of the crew not landing from the ship and 5 were stowaways. All 3 groups are of course equally capable of introducing infection into the town.

XVI. Arrangements for the burial or return of persons who have died on board ship from infectious disease.

No change.

XVII. Food Inspection.

Food voluntarily surrendered.

The following quantity of bananas was surrendered as unfit for human consumption, arriving Preston from West Indies:- 196 tons 2 cwts.

XVIII. Importation of Livestock from Ireland.

No cattle were imported during the year.

J.S.S. BARRETT.

Medical Officer of Health,
Municipal Building,
PRESTON.